

SEAC Youth and Family Engagement Resources



September 19, 2022

Youth and family engagement (YFE) was a key theme in the Year 3 [Student Engagement and Attendance Center](#) (SEAC) initiatives. SEAC hosted both a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) session and a Learning Series on YFE. SEAC is also developing tools to help state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs), and other educators develop YFE practices with high authenticity. Authentic YFE practices are asset based, collaborative, interactive, and built on mutual trust.

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The P2P session on YFE focused on equitable practices for engaging students and families and featured presentations from [Lacy Wood](#), associate project director for the Statewide Family Engagement Center, and Jane Groff, executive director of the [Kansas Parent Information Resource Center](#). During the session, Wood defined equitable engagement, and Groff introduced a validated [survey tool](#) designed to inform districts about schools' success in engaging parents in their children's education. This session presented SEAs and LEAs with approaches—like the survey tool—for identifying and incorporating equitable student and family engagement practices in schools and districts. One of the survey findings demonstrated that two domains of engagement significantly correlated to lower chronic absenteeism are a welcoming school environment and shared power and advocacy among students and families.

The “Building Systemic Supports for Better Attendance” Learning Series also featured YFE as a topic. The authentic youth and family engagement sessions led SEAs and LEAs through a facilitated process for considering the principle of incorporating students and their families in conversations and decisions to ensure their success. This process emphasized the importance of creating conditions for students to achieve improved attendance and engagement. Such involvement is essential to balance power and ensure more equitable solutions.

SEAC is developing YFE tools to guide SEAs, LEAs, and other educators on how to work as a team to move toward practices with high authenticity for YFE, practices that make use of relationships with youth and families and help engage with them meaningfully. These tools are designed to help teams at local, district, and state levels use a continuous improvement process to collaboratively assess current youth engagement practices, identify gaps, determine improvement practices that align with characteristics of authentic engagement, and prioritize practices to implement. Once finalized, the tools will be published [here](#) as a resource.

Additional resources shared during these sessions are linked below:

- ▶ [The Case for Community Engagement](#)
- ▶ [Strategies for Equitable Family Engagement](#)
- ▶ Equity-focused frameworks and rubrics to guide practice:
 - [Family, School, and Community Partnerships P-12 Framework](#) – Colorado's rubric was designed to help schools and districts self-assess components such as creating an inclusive culture, building trusting relationships, and delegating necessary resources

- [Family Engagement Framework](#) – Washington’s family engagement framework was developed to create a equitable and accessible system for students and families
- ▶ Kansas State Department of Education Technical Assistance System Network
 - Foundational Structure Reflection Rubric
 - [Family, Business and Community Partnerships](#)
 - [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
 - [Kansas Parent Information Resource Center](#)
 - [Family Engagement Survey](#)

The resources and materials listed above are for informational purposes only and their inclusion does not imply endorsement by the US Department of Education.